

**MOOR HOUSE WIND FARM  
FINAL GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMUNITY FUND**

**FILE NOTE**  
RE/M/721/COM-PR

**Purpose of the Fund**

A fund to be known as the Moor House Community Fund (MHCF) has been established by the Banks Community Fund to provide financial assistance to community groups, voluntary organisations and the local community in the area of the Moor House Wind Farm. The geographical boundaries for fund eligibility will normally be restricted to the Darlington Borough Council area with priority given to projects located in and benefiting local people in Sadberge, Bishopton, East & West Newbiggin, Bishopton, Little Stainton, Great Stainton, Great Burdon, Barmpton, Brafferton and areas of Whinfield, Harrogate Hill, Beaumont Hill and Coatham Mundeville who are north of the A1150 and east of the A167.

As of 01 October 2021, and for a period of one year, the following additional areas are now eligible to apply for funding from the Moor House Wind Farm Fund:

Heighington & Coniscliffe, Hurworth, Neasham and Middleton St George

Projects outside of these areas may be eligible if it can be shown that they benefit local people from the named areas above.

**Administration of the Fund**

The MHCF as is the case with all Banks Community Funds is administered by the County Durham and Darlington Community Foundation (The Foundation) which will consult with the Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "CFC"). The CFC will be made up of five voting members, as follows:

- Darlington Borough Councillor representing Sadberge and Middleton St George Ward
- Four nominated representatives from the eligible areas.

Representatives from The Foundation and Moor House Wind Farm Ltd may also attend meetings (probably on an annual basis only). The Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee will be appointed by Banks Group and will normally be elected members from the Borough Council or a parish council in the eligible area. These appointments will be reviewed every two years.

Decisions on individual applications will be agreed by CFC with the Banks Community Fund who will ratify the funding decisions of the CFC. The Banks Community Fund will normally expect to follow the recommendations of the CFC. Successful applicants for grant funding will normally be required to contribute 10% of the value of each grant to cover the cost of administration of the fund by the Banks Community Fund.

**Amount of Fund**

The fund will be credited with £15,000 per annum. Payments into the fund will be paid by Banks Group on an annual basis commencing from the date that all turbines have been fully commissioned. Payments will continue for a period of 25 years or until the site ceases to produce electricity, whichever is sooner.

An additional, one off amount of £50,000 will also be available but will be ring-fenced to support energy efficiency / community renewable schemes to community buildings and spaces. Maximum grant size to this section of the fund will be restricted to £10,000 each.

A second additional fund of £15,000pa will also be available. Details have been agreed and are available from County Durham Community Foundation.

### **Management Fee**

The Foundation will charge a management fee of 10% which will normally be recovered from successful grant applicants at the discretion of the Banks Community Fund advised by the CFC. This fee will cover all the costs of administration of the fund including preparation and issuing application forms, assessment of applications for funding, preparing detailed assessment reports with recommendations to the CFC, preparing financial reports, payment of grants, publicity and following up on the outcome of grant funded projects to ensure that the work has been done and any grant conditions complied with.

**UPDATE** – Following the liaison committee meeting held on 02 March 2022, it was agreed that for a period of up to one year from 1 April 2022, the 10% management fee can be taken directly from the fund if the applicant requests it and the necessary financial checks are returned satisfactorily.

### **Matched Funding**

Where appropriate, the Banks Community Fund will consider opportunities for securing matched funding and to direct grants through registered charities or to qualifying projects via the local charitable foundations to make grants more tax efficient and to increase the benefits available. (Any administration fees charged by the local charitable foundation may be paid by the MHCF).

### **Who is Eligible?**

Grants from the fund must be directed towards the following charitable purposes as defined under section 2 of the Charities Act 2011: the promotion of energy efficiency, environmental protection, landscape conservation, health and well-being, rural regeneration, amenities for community use, education and training, employment and/or social welfare.

Grants shall not support projects, initiatives or activities which are a statutory or other legal duty of a governmental department, local authority or other public body to carry on.

Community groups and voluntary organisations operating within and benefiting people who live in the eligible area will be considered for grant assistance with particular emphasis being placed on the children, senior citizens and disabled within the community. Examples are:-

- Schools, colleges
- Playgroups
- Youth clubs
- Sports clubs and facilities
- The Scout and Guide Movement
- Senior citizens clubs and activities
- Village Halls
- Church Halls
- Parish Council projects
- Residents Associations

The fund may also be used to support the Learning, Working, Earning scheme which provides discretionary grants for work-based learning and training initiatives for unemployed local people without age restriction and local small businesses and also schemes which help to support economic growth in the eligible area. Examples are:

- Contribution towards costs associated with vocational training and apprenticeship schemes
- Help in promoting and enhancing tourism and rural diversification

### **Amount of Grant Assistance**

The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to as many good causes as is possible within the eligible areas. It is expected that the majority of individual grants will be less than £3,000. Applications for higher amounts will be considered in special circumstances but will be referred to the Banks Community Fund for final approval.

**UPDATE** - Following the liaison committee meeting held on 02 March 2022, it was agreed that for a period of up to one year from 1 April 2022, the maximum grant size is increased to £7,000.

### **What Kind of Projects are Eligible for Grant Assistance?**

Grants will normally be directed towards capital costs of purchase rather than running costs although in special circumstances some contribution may be available for associated revenue or project management fees. In addition the fund may be used to support training, apprenticeship and employment initiatives for local young people and businesses within the eligible area of the fund. It is important that the local people agree the priorities for funding in their area through the CFC. Projects must provide an educational, environmental or philanthropic benefit to the local community.

**UPDATE** - Following the liaison committee meeting held on 02 March 2022, it was agreed that for a period of up to one year from 1 April 2022, revenue costs can also be applied for.

### **Application Procedure**

All applications should be made on the appropriate form / weblink. Standard circular requests for assistance will not be considered. Applications will be considered by the CFC who will make recommendations to the Banks Community Fund on qualifying projects.

Applicants may be invited to provide further information or make a presentation to the CFC in support of their bid if required.

Cheques will normally be made payable to the supplier of the goods once the capital purchase has been confirmed. Where the grant forms a contribution towards the cost of a larger amount, the Banks Community Fund may issue a pledge certificate which sets aside an amount from the fund for a period of 12 months.

Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision in relation to each bid.

### **What Happens to Surplus Funds?**

Any surplus funds not allocated at the completion of site operations will be applied by The Banks Community Fund to provide benefit to the local community in the eligible area.

Lewis Stokes  
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The Banks Group  
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